



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Norio KIMURA et al.

Docket No. 2000-1761A

Serial No. 09/742,386

Group Art Unit 1762

Filed December 22, 2000

APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR
PROCESSING SEMICONDUCTOR
SUBSTRATE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, DC 20231

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Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants request consideration of ☒ the references listed on attached form PTO-1449 and/or ☐ the additional information identified below in paragraph 3. A legible copy of each reference listed on the form PTO-1449 and each U.S. patent application listed below is enclosed, except a copy is not provided for each reference previously cited by or submitted to the Patent Office in prior parent application Serial No. .

1a. ☒ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

within three months of the filing date (or of entry into the National Stage) of the above-entitled application, **or**

before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits,

and thus no certification and/or fee is required.

1b. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted

after the events of above paragraph 1a and prior to the mailing date of a final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance or an action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and thus:

- (1) ☐ the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, **or**
- (2) ☐ the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

1c. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

after the mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance or action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and prior to payment of the issue fee, and thus:

the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, and
the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

2. It is hereby certified

- a. ☐ that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement, or
- b. ☐ that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement.

3. ☐ Consideration of the following list of additional information (including any copending or abandoned U.S. application, prior uses and/or sales, etc.) is requested.

4. For each non-English language reference listed on the attached form PTO-1449, reference is made to:

- a. ☐ a full or partial English language translation submitted herewith.



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- b. ☒ a foreign patent office search report (in the English language) submitted herewith,
- c. ☐ the concise explanation contained in the specification of the present application at page,
- d. ☐ the concise explanation set forth in the attached English language abstract,
- e. ☐ the concise explanation set forth below or on a separate sheet attached to the reference:
5. ☐ A foreign patent office search report citing one or more of the references is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Norio KIMURA et al.

By 

Nils E. Pedersen
Registration No. 33,145
Attorney for Applicants

NEP/krl
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
July 31, 2001

Sheet 1 of 1 FORM PTO 1449 (modified) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY DOCKET NO. 2000-1761A		SERIAL NO. 09/742,386	
LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary) Date Submitted to PTO: July 31, 2001		APPLICANT Norio KIMURA et al.			
		FILING DATE December 22, 2000		GROUP 1762	

JUL 31 2001

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
AA	5,853,559	12/1998	Tamaki et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
	AB	0903774	3/1999	EP		
	AC	7-107199	11/1995	JP		
	AD	7-81197	8/1995	JP		
	AE	2000-328297	11/2000	JP		
	AF	11-87276	3/1999	JP		
	AG	0878834	11/1998	EP		
	AH	9-53198	2/1997	JP		
	AI	11-269693	10/1999	JP		
	AJ	0761387	3/1997	EP		
	AK	11-198033	7/1999	JP		
	AL	10-335288	12/1998	JP		
	AM	10-209091	8/1998	JP		
	AN	9-36072	2/1997	JP		
	AO	8-316179	11/1996	JP		
	AP	8-240413	9/1996	JP		
	AQ	55-85692	6/1980	JP		
	AR	6-169003	6/1994	JP		

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OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.